

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the instant application are respectfully requested.

The claims of the instant application are subject to a restriction requirement. Applicant traverses for the reasons set out below.

Applicant provisionally elects to prosecute claims 1-9 and 18-19 drawn to the hydrophilic, water-wettable, semipermeable hollow-fiber membrane. Claims 10-17, drawn to the method for producing hydrophilic, water-wettable, semipermeable hollow-fiber membrane, are withdrawn from consideration. Applicant acknowledges the right of rejoinder once allowable subject matter is found in the product claims, since the method claims already require all of the elements of the product claims.

Applicant traverses the restriction requirement because 1) unity of the invention was not previously questioned in the International Examination, and 2) the method claims depend from the product claims (note claim 10). The Examiner is reminded that according to PCT Article 27(1) that the national authorities are bound by the PCT authority. Therefore, this restriction requirement is misplaced and should be removed.

Reconsideration and allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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